

Dangers of Jews dating non-Jews

I FOUND Gabriela Pomeroy's article, "Guest appearance" (JC, April 16), distasteful. To interview non-Jews who are the partners of Jewish singles is, effectively, to condone the ongoing rise in intermarriage.

While you may argue that you are simply reporting a reality, we have to be acutely aware of the dangers of intermarriage. It leads to significant problems within families and, in the long run, is helping to reduce the number of Jews in Britain.

We are not necessarily better than others, but we certainly consider ourselves to be special — "a kingdom of priests and a light unto the nations."

One of the non-Jewish girls you interviewed found some of her Jewish boyfriend's friends "weird," because "they don't answer the phone on Friday night."

What a sad comment! Shabbat is the most beneficial gift we Jews have given the world. Imagine a life without a day's break from work.

We don't need non-Jews commenting on Jewish social life. While nothing in our community is perfect — and we can all spend hours criticising the strictly Orthodox, the non-Orthodox, our dreadful road manners, the arrogance of many Israelis, and whatever — at least we are here to take notice, to criticise and to try to make things better.

Dating non-Jews will only make things worse, because when non-Jew and Jew get together in this way, the result is more likely than not to be more non-Jews.

I have nothing against non-Jews. They are the majority in this country, and we have to interact with them and befriend them, because friendship creates knowledge, and knowledge promotes harmony.

But we are merely guests on the way to our homeland. In Bible times, 70 Jews arrived in Egypt; 210 years later, hundreds of thousands left. In modern times, hundreds of thousands of Jews have settled in Britain and we should now be a community of several million. But we are not — and we should do everything possible not to aggravate the situation.

GARETH KREIKE,
BURY OLD ROAD, PRESTWICH.

[*Gabriela Pomeroy writes:* Reporting on a situation is hardly synonymous with condoning it. Indeed, I feel about intermarriage much as Mr Kreike does. Yet Jews interact with non-Jews, and I believe it is helpful to consider how we are perceived by them. — Ed., JC.]